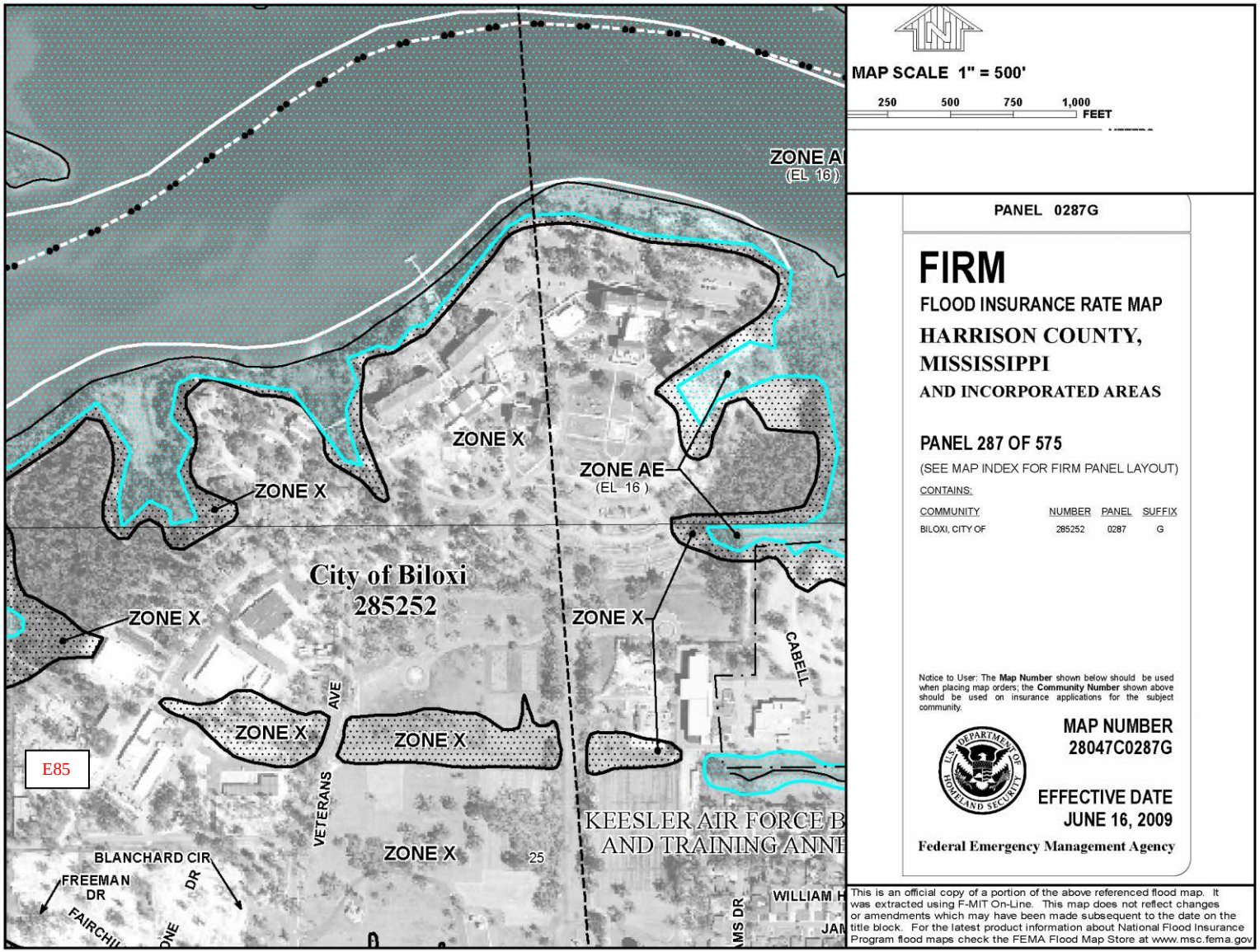


Figure 4-2. Mapped floodplains in the immediate vicinity of the Biloxi VAMC, MS facility, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The location of the E85 station is shown in RED. E85

## 4.10 VEGETATION AND LAND USE

### 4.10.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment for vegetation consists of those areas potentially subject to ground disturbance as a result of the Proposed Action. The program-wide analysis provides a description of the general land use categories. Management plans and zoning regulations determine the type and extent of land use allowable in these specific areas and are often intended to protect specially designated or environmentally sensitive areas and sensitive noise receptors.

The Biloxi VAMC is located in a relatively suburban setting, consisting largely of man-made features such as buildings, parking lots, roads, lawns, etc. The majority of vegetation cover at the facility consists of maintained lawns with scattered clusters of landscaping trees and shrubs. The northern, eastern, and western boundaries of the VAMC are composed of open-canopied mixed deciduous forest.

### 4.10.2 Environmental Consequences

#### 4.10.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, an E85 fueling station would be situated and operated in the engineering complex in the southwestern part of the campus. As described in the program-wide analysis, potential effects on vegetation and land use resources from E85 tank installation and operation are largely minimal because of the previously developed nature of these locations. Further, given the minimal permanent footprint required for the 10,000 gallon AST fueling station, no significant impact to the surrounding area vegetation and land cover is expected. No significant vegetation or land use effects are anticipated at the Biloxi VAMC, given that the area is currently paved and used for similar facility operations.

#### 4.10.2.2 No-action Alternative

The installation and operation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC would not occur; therefore, there would be no effects on land use or vegetation under the No-action Alternative. All

VA personnel that currently operate FFVs at the facility would continue to use E85 fuel resources from offsite fueling stations.

## 4.11 WILDLIFE

### 4.11.1 Affected Environment

The program-wide analysis provides a definition of wildlife resources, and in general terms, describes the roles and regulations administered by federal and state agencies responsible for the management of wildlife species. As part of this site-specific EA, the USFWS and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks will be consulted to identify wildlife species that potentially could be affected by the installation and operation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC. Wildlife at the site would most likely consist of species that are very adaptable to human-influenced environments.

### 4.11.2 Environmental Consequences

#### 4.11.2.1 Proposed Action

The installation and operation of an AST E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC is not anticipated to have effects on wildlife resources. Although responses from the USFWS and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks are pending, it is unlikely that wildlife resources or their habitats would be affected by the Proposed Action given the small size of the project footprint within a previously developed area.

#### 4.11.2.2 No-action Alternative

The installation and operation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC would not occur; therefore, there would be no effects on wildlife under the No-action Alternative. All VA personnel that currently operate FFVs at the facility would continue to use E85 fuel resources from offsite fueling stations.

## 4.12 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

### 4.12.1 Affected Environment

The program-wide analysis provides a definition of threatened and endangered species, and in general terms, describes the roles and regulations administered by federal and state agencies responsible for the management of these species. As part of this site-specific EA, the USFWS and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks will be consulted to identify federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species that potentially could be affected by the installation and operation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC. (The 2008 VA Medical Center Expansion, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi, EA and FONSI identified no threatened, endangered, or species of concern at the Biloxi VAMC.)

### 4.12.2 Environmental Consequences

#### 4.12.2.1 Proposed Action

The installation and operation of a 10,000 gallon AST E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC would not be likely to affect any threatened or endangered species significantly. Although responses from the USFWS and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks are pending, it is unlikely that any threatened or endangered species or their habitats would be affected by the Proposed Action given the urban setting and the very small size of the project. (The 2008 VA Medical Center Expansion, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi, EA and FONSI identified no threatened, endangered, or species of concern at the Biloxi VAMC.)

#### 4.12.2.2 No-action Alternative

The installation and operation of a 10,000 gallon AST E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC would not occur; therefore, there would be no effects on threatened and endangered species under the No-action Alternative. All VA personnel that currently operate FFVs at the facility would continue to use E85 fuel resources from offsite fueling stations.

## 4.13 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES

### 4.13.1 Affected Environment

The program-wide analysis provides a general description of solid and hazardous materials and wastes that may be encountered on a VAMC campus. Potential sources of hazardous materials and wastes that may be encountered at the facility include, but are not limited to, USTs and ASTs; use, storage, and disposal of medical waste; materials suspected to contain asbestos or lead; and known spills and releases. Most VAMC facilities already have petroleum USTs and ASTs as part of their existing fueling capabilities, or that contain diesel fuel for emergency generators or fuel oil for boilers to provide heat. Mississippi regulations pertaining to USTs and ASTs are summarized in an appendix to the program-wide analysis.

### 4.13.2 Environmental Consequences

#### 4.13.2.1 Proposed Action

Federal and state regulations for petroleum ASTs are summarized in the program-wide analysis. Effects from hazardous materials and wastes at the Biloxi VAMC are likely to be minimal providing that all appropriate state and federal regulations are followed. If there is no potential for contamination due to prior use (e.g., fuel storage, USTs, etc.), subsurface investigation may not be needed for minor excavation. Given the proposed location of the E85 fueling station no excavation on the site is expected. If excavation is needed and contamination is suspected or discovered, then suspect soil would be field screened, segregated, sampled for disposal characterization, and disposed of appropriately following Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality regulations. Provided the E85 tank is properly sited, state and federal regulations are followed, and the Biloxi VAMC SPCC Plan is followed, then no significant effects due to solid and hazardous materials or wastes are anticipated.

#### 4.13.2.2 No-action Alternative

The installation and operation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC would not occur; therefore, there would be no effects due to solid and hazardous materials or wastes under the

No-action Alternative. All VA personnel that currently operate FFVs at the facility would continue to use E85 fuel resources from offsite fueling stations.

## 4.14 SAFETY

### 4.14.1 Affected Environment

Safety considerations associated with the installation of a 10,000 gallon AST E85 fueling station are addressed in the program-wide analysis. The safety standards for handling and storing E85 are the same as those for gasoline. The Biloxi VAMC already maintains and operates fueling facilities, and therefore has procedures in place affecting safety at these facilities. The Biloxi VAMC has an existing SPCC Plan, but the addition of a 10,000 gallon AST would require that it be amended by a Professional Engineer (PE).

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has two standards that apply to fuel ethanol blends: NFPA 30, "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code," and NFPA 30A, "Automotive and Marine Service Station Code." These codes contain information on refueling facilities, storage, and handling requirements for all flammable and combustible liquids (U.S. DOE 2006). NFPA assigns ethanol fuels, including E100 and E85, to the same class as gasoline. Minimum NFPA safety setbacks for ASTs are highlighted in Table 3-3 of the program-wide analysis (Appendix A).

### 4.14.2 Environmental Consequences

#### 4.14.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the Biloxi VAMC would have to amend its current SPCC Plan. The amendment would have to be done within six months, and certified by a professional engineer (PE). Recent regulations allow a facility to self certify a SPCC Plan providing: 1) it does not exceed 10,000 gallons of aboveground storage capacity; 2) no tank is bigger than 5,000 gallons; 3) no spill is greater than 1,000 gallons; or 4) no two spills exceeding 42 gallons have occurred within 12 months (Tier 1 certification). The Biloxi VAMC stores approximately

80,000 gallons of fuel on site and therefore does not meet the requirement for self certification. The installation or placement of the proposed E85 AST would also have to comply with the minimum NFPA safety setbacks for fueling stations (refer to Table 3-3 of the program-wide analysis). Provided that all state and federal AST regulations and setbacks are followed and the facility SPCC Plan is amended and certified by a professional engineer (PE), no significant effects on safety are expected.

#### 4.14.2.2 No-action Alternative

The installation and operation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC would not occur; therefore, there would be no effects on safety under the No-action Alternative. All VA personnel that currently operate FFVs at the facility would continue to use E85 fuel resources from offsite fueling stations.

# 5.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

## 5.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS SUMMARY

The program-wide analysis provides a definition of cumulative effects; a general description of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions relevant to cumulative effects; and a broad analysis of cumulative effects between those actions and the Proposed Action. Potential mitigation measures to offset and cumulative effects at the Biloxi VAMC are described below.

## 5.2 MITIGATION SUMMARY

Effects on historic and cultural resources from the Proposed Action require review by the SHPO. Therefore, the assessment of potential effects on archeological and architectural resources is pending. Given the proposed location of the fueling station and the small footprint required for an AST, it is unlikely that cultural or historic resources would be affected.

Installation of the proposed E85 station will support the VA mission while contributing less GHG than conventional fuels. The life of the proposed E85 station is expected to be 15-20 years; based on regional weather event history and published long-range forecasts, climate change is not likely to affect the Biloxi VAMC or the proposed action during this period.

The proposed E85 station will be located in the paved engineering yard. The E85 AST and fueling station will be a complete, self-contained, skid-mounted unit built to VA specifications. It will conform to all engineering standards/specifications for E85 containment (including a double-walled tank) and pumping. No excavation will be required for installation. As such, there will be no affect on stormflow or need for a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

The facility has an existing SPCC Plan, but the addition of a 10,000 gallon AST would require that it be amended. The amendment would have to be done within six months, and certified by a professional engineer (PE). The Biloxi VAMC SPCC Plan addresses all aspects of fueling, spill prevention and response, reporting, and clean-up. Although the facility is located on the banks

of Back Bay Biloxi, there has not been a reportable incident of oil reaching navigable waters in the last fifteen (15) years (Boggs, Pers. Comm.).

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# 6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Kristine Sillett
Senior Biologist
M.S. Biology

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Senior Biologist
B.S. Biology

Steven Harriott
Professional Wetland Scientist
M.S. Environmental Studies (Botany)

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NEPA Program Manager
Ph.D. Biology (Ecology)

Carol DeLisle
Technical Writer and Editor
B.S. Biology

Ginny Rogers
Environmental Scientist
M.S. Environmental Management

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# 7.0 REFERENCES

Panamerican Consultants, Inc. 2010. Historic Context for the Biloxi VA Medical Center. June 2010.

Versar, Inc. 2009. Determination of Optimal Location for Alternative Fueling Stations. Prepared for Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration, under contract no. VA-776-09-RQ-0066, by Versar, Inc., Germantown, MD.

Versar, Inc. 2010. Program-wide Analysis of Environmental Impacts from E85 Alternative Fueling Facilities at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers throughout the U.S. Prepared for Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration, under contract no. VA-776-09-RQ-0066, by Versar, Inc., Columbia, MD.

U.S. DOE. 2006. Handbook for Handling, Storing, and Dispensing E85. Prepared by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), DOE/GO-102006-2343, July 2006.

U.S. EPA Memorandum, "Removal of Stage II Vapor Recovery in Situations Where Widespread Use of Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery is Demonstrated," U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, December 12, 2006.

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# 8.0 PERSONS CONSULTED

Jay Tripp
Chief Engineer
Biloxi, MS VAMC

Lee Sesler, PE
Versar, Inc.
Germantown, MD

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# APPENDIX A
# PROGRAM-WIDE ANALYSIS
# OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
# FROM E85 ALTERNATIVE FUELING FACILITIES
# AT VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE U.S.

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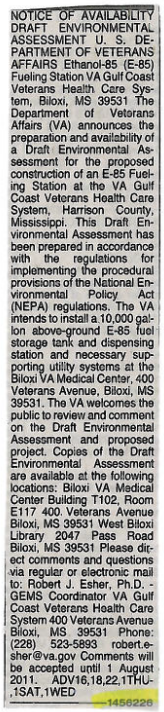
# APPENDIX B
# AGENCY COORDINATION AND COMMENTS

# PROOF OF PUBLICATION



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Ethanol-85 (E-85) Fueling Station VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Biloxi, MS 39531 The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the preparation and availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed construction of an E-85 Fueling Station at the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Harrison County, Mississippi. This Draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The VA intends to install a 10,000 gallon above-ground E-85 fuel storage tank and dispensing station and necessary supporting utility systems at the Biloxi VA Medical Center, 400 Veterans Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39531. The VA welcomes the public to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment and proposed project. Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment are available at the following locations: Biloxi VA Medical Center Building T102, Room E117 400. Veterans Avenue Biloxi, MS 39531 West Biloxi Library 2047 Pass Road Biloxi, MS 39531 Please direct comments and questions via regular or electronic mail to: Robert J. Esher, Ph.D. - GEMS Coordinator VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System 400 Veterans Avenue Biloxi, MS 39531 Phone: (228) 523-5893 robert.esher@va.gov Comments will be accepted until 1 August 2011. ADV16,18,22,1THU-,1SAT,1WED

1456226

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HARRISON

Before me, the undersigned Notary of Harrison County, Mississippi personally appeared CRISTA LAUX who, being by me first duly sworn, did depose and say that she is a clerk of The Sun Herald, a newspaper published in the city Gulfport, in Harrison County, Mississippi, and the publication of the notice, a copy of which is hereto attached, has been made in said paper 3 times in the following numbers and on the following dates of such paper, viz:

Vol. 127 No. 256 dated 16 day of June, 20 11
Vol. 127 No. 258 dated 18 day of June, 20 11
Vol. 127 No. 262 dated 22 day of June, 20 11
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 _____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 _____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 _____
Vol. _____ No., _____ dated _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Affiant further states on oath that said newspaper has been established and published continuously in said country for a period of more than twelve months next prior to the first publication of said notice.

Crista Laux
Clerk

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of June, A.D., 20 11

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
KANDI A BERKLEY
NOTARY PUBLIC
ID No. 80799
Comm. Expires
April 05, 2014
HARRISON COUNTY

Kandi Berkley
Notary Public

PAID

**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2011 2:22 PM
**To:** 'fuller.georgina@epa.gov'
**Subject:** Draft EA for Proposed E85 Fueling Station at Biloxi VAMC
**Attachments:** Biloxi, MS VAMC EA_revised.pdf

Georgina:

Attached is a copy of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed E85 fueling station at the Biloxi campus of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. In order to comply with section 701 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 the VA plans to install E85 stations at medical centers across the nation. This EA is part of that effort.

If you send me the address of anyone at EPA that would be interested in reviewing the document, I will forward them a copy. I would prefer sending electronic copies since it is 150 pages, but will send hard copies if preferred.

Comments should be emailed or sent to me at the address below by 1 August 2011.

Thanks,

Bob

Robert J. Esher, Ph.D.
GEMS Coordinator
VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System
Biloxi, MS 39531

228-523-5893 (office)
228-671-1259 (cell)

**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Beth Walls [Walls.Beth@epamail.epa.gov]
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 27, 2011 10:38 AM
**To:** Esher, Robert J.
**Cc:** Heinz Mueller
**Subject:** Draft EA for Proposed E85 Fueling Station at Biloxi VAMC
**Attachments:** pic09860.gif; pic25783.gif

Dear Mr. Esher

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed action. Below are some comments on the draft EA for your consideration.

Minor editorial comment: it would be helpful if Figure 4-2 also included the location of the proposed action and the 3 parcels of estuarine emergent wetlands in context of the flood plain.

SPPC applicability comment: there is a question as to whether the SPCC regulations are applicable the proposed action.

- See: Who is regulated by the SPCC regulations? 40 CFR 112 at http://www.epa.gov/region5oil/plan/spcc.html#who1

- Before a facility is subject to the SPCC rule, it must meet three criteria:

  1. it must be non-transportation-related;

  2. it must have an aggregate aboveground storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or a completely buried storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons; and

  3. there must be a reasonable expectation of a discharge into or upon navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines.

- The description provided in the draft EA suggests criteria #1 above is not met.
- Additionally, it is unclear from the draft EA whether criteria #3 above is met.
  - For example, the Program-wide Analysis of Environmental Impacts from E85 Alternative Fueling Facilities at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers throughout the U.S. (Appendix A – p. 4-17) states new E85 tanks would not be constructed in or adjacent to wetlands, flood plains, or surface waters. The potential for spills and the response in the event of a spill would be addressed in a SPCC plan for any facility with a combined AST greater 1,320 gallons where there is a reasonable expectation of a discharge into or upon navigable waters.
  - The draft EA does not indicate whether there is a reasonable expectation of discharge into or upon navigable waters.

EPA recommends the EA fully address the applicability of the SPCC

to the proposed action.

Storm water Runoff concerns:

- EPA recommends the EA address potential cumulative effects associated with potential spills associated with use, accidental spills, etc.

- EPA recommends the EA address the applicability of the State of Mississippi's Storm Water Pollution Prevention program.

  - EPA recommends the EA address the applicability Mississippi Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Guidance Manual For Industrial Facilities (see

http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/pdf/epd_baseline_guidance/$File/baseline_guidance.pdf?OpenElement )

  - EPA also recommends the EA address the applicability Mississippi Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Guidance Manual For Construction Activities Small Construction (1 to less than 5 acres) , see:

http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/pdf/epd_conguidman/$File/ConstructionGM.pdf?OpenElement )

  - EPA also recommends the EA investigate the applicability of the State's MS4 (Municipal) Phase II Storm Water Permit, see: http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/epd_epdgeneral

  - EPA notes the Program-wide Analysis of Environmental Impacts from E85 Alternative Fueling Facilities at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers throughout the U.S. (Appendix A - p. 4-14) states All of the E85 tanks to be installed would be of double-walled construction lessening the potential for leakage and eliminating the need for large external containment berms. Double-walled tanks protect against an internal tank failure but do not address potential spills associated with operation and maintenance or accidental encounters by delivery trucks, and other unpredictable tank failures.

- EPA recommends the EA investigate the available tank technology and their associated potential E85 storage-compatibility issues. For example, the State of Florida's findings are the storage and distribution of E85 has a much more significant potential adverse effect on storage tank system components that are in continuous contact with E85, and can potentially contaminate vehicle fuel tanks.

  E85 can corrode soft metals such as aluminum and zinc and the more cathodic metals such as brass, copper, and lead. It can act as a scouring agent that can loosen internal deposits and sludge. E85 can accelerate an existing corrosion in steel tanks. Not cleaning the tank properly before introducing E85 can lead to loss of product. E85 is not compatible with many plastics, and certain resins used in older, lined tanks. E85 can impair the operation of Automatic Tank Gauges and probe floats, and destroy the sealing ability of some materials such as cork, rubber, and leather.

Phase separation can occur, and filter maintenance is an important issue because improperly sized or efficiency rated fuel filters may allow contaminants and corrosive element from the tank to enter the vehicle fuel system during fuel transfer. See:

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/pss/tanks/ethanol/EthanolStorageinUSTandAST.pdf

- EPA recommends the EA address CEQ's 2-18-2010 draft NEPA Guidance On Consideration Of The Effects Of Climate Change And Greenhouse Gas Emissions Climate Change Guidance, copy attached, specifically regarding the relationship of climate change effects to the proposed action or alternatives, including the relationship to proposal design, environmental impacts, mitigation and adaptation measures. For example, the impacts associated with increased storm intensities (e.g., hurricanes: wind and flooding) and sea level rise for the life of the proposed action (which was not identified in the draft EA).

If you have any questions, my contact information is provided below.

Sincerely

(Embedded image moved to file: pic09860.gif) Beth Walls Environmental Scientist,
404-562-8309 & walls.beth@epa.gov
Region 4, NEPA Program Office
Sam Nunn AFC, 61 Forsyth St.,
Atlanta, Ga 30303-8960

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**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 5:21 PM
**To:** 'gwill@mdah.state.ms.us'
**Subject:** EA for the proposed E85 station at the Biloxi VA
**Attachments:** Biloxi, MS VAMC EA_revised.pdf

Greg:

It was great talking to you. Attached is the Environmental Assessment for the proposed E85 station. Let me know if you want a hard copy of the document.

Bob

Robert J. Esher, Ph.D.
GEMS Coordinator
VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health care System
Biloxi, MS 39531

228-523-5893 (office)
228-671-1259 (cell)

**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 4:43 PM
**To:** 'Jim Woodrick'
**Subject:** EA for E85 Station at VAMC Biloxi
**Attachments:** Biloxi, MS VAMC EA_revised.pdf

Jim:

It was great talking to you. Have fun on your vacation. Attached is a copy of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VA. I will send a hard copy as soon as I can get them printed and bound.

Bob

Robert J. Esher, Ph.D.
GEMS Coordinator
VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System
Biloxi, MS 39531

228-523-5893 (office)
228-671-1259 (cell)

**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2011 2:51 PM
**To:** 'jamie.m.miller@mail.house.gov'
**Subject:** Draft EA for E85 Fueling Station at VAMC Biloxi
**Attachments:** Biloxi, MS VAMC EA_revised.pdf

Mr. Miller:

Attached is an Environmental Assessment for the proposed installation of an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VAMC. Installation of the fueling station is part of a nation-wide effort to bring the VA into compliance with Section 701 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This program-wide EA has been prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

I am having a hard copy sent to the Congressman's office in Washington, DC, but was told that you may want to have an electronic copy to review. (The document should be out for public review next week.)

Comments on the draft EA should be submitted to me on or before August 1, 2011. Should you have any questions concerning this matter feel free to contact me via phone or email.

Bob

Robert J. Esher, Ph.D.
GEMS Coordinator
VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System
Biloxi, MS 39531

228-523-5893 (office)
228-671-1259 (cell)

**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 3:40 PM
**To:** 'doris_wagley@cochran.senate.gov'
**Cc:** Martino, Christina C.
**Subject:** Draft Environmental Assessment for E85 Fueling Station
**Attachments:** Notice of Availability E85 Fueling Station.docx; Biloxi, MS VAMC EA_revised.pdf

Doris:

As requested, attached is a one-page notice describing the proposed project. I have also attached a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Ethanol 85 (E85) Fueling Station. Only the first 50 pages of the 150 page document deal specifically with the Biloxi VA Medical Center; the remaining pages are a program-wide analysis of environmental impacts associated with installation of E85 fueling stations throughout the U.S.

If Senator Cochran would like a hard copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment, let me know and I will send him a copy.

Bob

Robert J. Esher, Ph.D.
GEMS Coordinator
VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System
Biloxi, MS 39531

228-523-5893 (office)
228-671-1259 (cell)

**Esher, Robert J.**

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:49 AM
**To:** 'Barbara_Turner@wicker.senate.gov'
**Subject:** FW: Draft Environmental Assessment for E85 Fueling Station
**Attachments:** Notice of Availability E85 Fueling Station.docx; Biloxi, MS VAMC EA_revised.pdf

**From:** Esher, Robert J.
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:32 AM
**To:** 'Barbara.Turner@wicker.senate.gov'
**Cc:** 'Jamie_Ellis@wicker.senate.gov'; Martino, Christina C.
**Subject:** FW: Draft Environmental Assessment for E85 Fueling Station

Ms Turner:

As I stated in our phone conversation this morning, the VA wants to install a 10,000 gallon above-ground E85 fuel storage tank and dispensing station at the Biloxi VA Medical Center. Attached is a one-page notice describing the proposed project and where to send comments as well as a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Only the first 50 pages of the 150 page EA deal specifically with the Biloxi VA Medical Center, the remaining pages are a program-wide analysis of environmental impacts associated with installation of E85 fueling stations throughout the U.S.

If Senator Wicker would like a hard copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the E85 Fueling Station, let me know and I will send him a copy.

Bob

Robert J. Esher, Ph.D.
GEMS Coordinator
VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System
Biloxi, MS 39531

228-523-5893 (office)
228-671-1259 (cell)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
**VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System**
**400 Veterans Avenue**
**Biloxi, MS 39531**

In Reply Refer To: 520/18S

The Honorable Steven M. Palazzo
U.S. House of Representatives
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Palazzo:

Enclosed is a copy of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed E85 fueling station at the Biloxi campus of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. Installation of the fueling station is part of a nation-wide effort to bring the VA into compliance with Section 701 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This program-wide EA has been prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Comments on the draft EA should be submitted to Dr. Robert J. Esher, GEMS Coordinator, on or before August 1, 2011. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Dr. Esher at 228-523-5893 (email: robert.esher@va.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE
Director

Enclosure

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
**VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System**
**400 Veterans Avenue**
**Biloxi, MS 39531**

In Reply Refer To: 520/18S

Mayor A. J. Holloway
City Of Biloxi
P. O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533

Dear Mayor Holloway:

Enclosed is a copy of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed E85 fueling station at the Biloxi campus of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. Installation of the fueling station is part of a nation-wide effort to bring the VA into compliance with Section 701 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This program-wide EA has been prepared in accordance with National Enviromental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Comments on the draft EA should be submitted to Dr. Robert J. Esher, GEMS Coordinator, on or before August 1, 2011. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Dr. Esher at 228-523-5893 (email: robert.esher@va.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE
Director

Enclosure

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
**VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System**
**400 Veterans Avenue**
**Biloxi, MS 39531**

In Reply Refer To: 520/18S

Mr. Jerry Banks
Manager
Office of Pollution Control
P. O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39225

Dear Mr. Banks:

Enclosed is a copy of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed E85 fueling station at the Biloxi campus of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. Installation of the fueling station is part of a nation-wide effort to bring the VA into compliance with Section 701 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This program-wide EA has been prepared in accordance with National Enviromental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Comments on the draft EA should be submitted to Dr. Robert J. Esher, GEMS Coordinator, on or before August 1, 2011. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Dr. Esher at 228-523-5893 (email: robert.esher@va.gov).

Sincerely,

Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE
Director

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